



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kazunari TAKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2635

Application No.: 10/670,422

Examiner: N. NGUYEN

Filed: September 26, 2003

Docket No.: 117246

For: TRANSPONDER, INTERROGATOR, AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the November 28, 2005 Office Action, the period for reply being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Nguyen and Zimmerman at the interview held March 21, 2006, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 2, 3 and 9-20 include allowable subject matter.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4-8 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,650,695 to Girard in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,265,963 to Wood, Jr. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, claims 1, 4-8 and 21-23 would not have been rendered obvious by Girard in view of Wood. Specifically, as agreed, neither of the applied references teach or suggest a transponder that includes "a frequency hopping device which hops a frequency of a subcarrier wave according to a frequency hopping pattern representing a unit data as a first portion of an information signal, and thereby modifies the subcarrier wave," as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claim 22. Further, as agreed, neither of the applied references teach or suggest "an information obtaining device which obtains, from said at least one frame data obtained by the frame-data obtaining device and the frequency hopping pattern recognized by the frequency hopping pattern recognizer, identification information usable to identify the transponder, and transmission information transmitted with the identification information from the transponder to the interrogator," as recited in claim 21, and as similarly recited in claim 22.

The Office Action acknowledges that Girard does not disclose a frequency hopping device. Further, Wood does not remedy this deficiency. Wood does not teach or suggest these features. That is, as agreed during the personal interview, Wood does not disclose a frequency hopping pattern that represents a unit data as a first portion of an information signal, and thereby modifies the subcarrier wave.

Wood, instead, only discloses that the interrogator hops between frequencies so that the interrogator knows what frequency backscatter reflections to expect back from the device 12. In Wood, the amount of time that the interrogator continuously uses a single frequency is reduced by hopping between various frequencies (col. 9, lines 1-5).

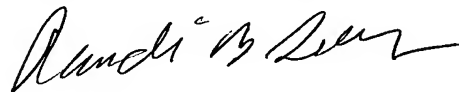
Thus, claims 1, 21 and 22 are patentable over Girard and Wood. Further, claims 4-8 and 23, which depend from claims 1 and 22, respectively, are also patentable over Girard and Wood for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claims 1 and 22, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RBI/hs

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 23, 2006

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